

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Bashore for his careful review of this patent application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 1 and 3-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-20 have been rejected.

Van De Vanter and Fukunaga Do Not, Either Singularly or in Combination, Describe, Teach or Suggest the Invention of Claims 1, 3-6, 10-15 and 19-20

In paragraph 6 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 10-15 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,857,212 to *Van De Vanter* ("*Van De Vanter*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,627,948 to *Fukunaga* ("*Fukunaga*").

Claims 1 and 10

The Examiner alleged that *Van De Vanter* describes locating a cursor over existing text. The cited section of *Van De Vanter* describes "moving the insertion point over the editable elements" and thus, only contemplates that a cursor can be positioned over existing elements. In contrast, Claim 1 recites determining whether a location of a cursor in an electronic document is positioned over existing text, such as existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces. The cited section of *Van De Vanter* does not describe determining whether a location of a cursor is positioned over existing text because *Van De Vanter* only permits a cursor to be positioned over existing elements.

The Examiner also alleged that *Fukunaga* describes collecting contextual formatting information of text lines proximate to a cursor position not located over text. The cited sections of *Fukunaga* describe that a cursor is positioned at the left margin of an existing line of text. The cursor of Figure 4 of *Fukunaga* is located on the same line as the existing text,

“At hockheed Corp., whose very. . .”. The cursor is positioned over existing spaces on the line. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the cursor can be positioned in a location that is not over existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces. By allowing the cursor to be positioned in a location that is not over existing text, the claimed invention “allows a user to place an insertion point at various points within an electronic document without having to manually add spaces, tabs or carriage returns to the document.” Application, page 6, last paragraph. In contrast, the cited section of *Fukunaga* describes that a cursor is positioned at various points of an existing line of text. The cited section of *Fukunaga* does not describe that a cursor can be positioned in a location that is not located within an existing line of text.

The Examiner alleged that it would have been obvious to combine *Van De Vanter* and *Fukunaga* because *Fukunaga* collects format information and the combination would provide “a way to establish format and display correspondence to *Van De Vanter*.” There is no motivation to combine *Van De Vanter* and *Fukunaga* in the manner asserted by the Examiner. *Van De Vanter* describes tools to assist in editing a computer program, whereas *Fukunaga* describes that different formatting can be applied to sentences on a line by line basis. There is no suggestion in *Van De Vanter* that it would be beneficial to be able to change the formatting of a computer program on a line by line basis. Moreover, even if the references are combined, the combination does not describe the invention of Claim 1 because neither reference describes the ability to position a cursor in a location that is not over existing text.

The Examiner admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe that the cursor indicates the formatting that will be applied to text and objects located in close proximity to the cursor location. However, the Examiner alleged that *Fukunaga* describes displaying formatting information proximate to the cursor location at Figures 3 and 4. Figures 3 and 4 of *Fukunaga* illustrate that formatting information is displayed to the user in a format display area (301). The formatting information is only conveyed via the format display area. The presentation of the cursor is not affected. Thus, *Fukunaga* does not describe the invention of Claim 1 because

Fukunaga does not describe changing a presentation of the cursor to indicate a type of formatting that will be applied to text and objects located in close proximity to the cursor location.

The Examiner also admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe performing formatting. However, the Examiner alleged that *Fukunaga* describes performing formatting relative to cursor placement at Figures 3 and 4. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate that different lines of text can have different formatting, such as different margins. In contrast, Claim 1 recites performing formatting to place the insertion point in the electronic document. Neither *Van De Vanter* nor *Fukunaga* describe performing formatting to place the insertion point in the document. *Van De Vanter* describes an insertion point within existing text and *Fukunaga* describes that different lines of text can have different formatting.

The Examiner rejected Claim 10 by essentially repeating the arguments made in rejecting Claim 1. The remarks made above in support of Claim 1 are equally applicable to distinguish Claim 10 from the cited references.

Claims 4 and 13-15

The Examiner admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe repeating the steps recited by Claim 1, if an indication has not been received to place the insertion point in the electronic document. However, the Examiner alleged that *Van De Vanter* describes repeating the visual offset calculation of alignment markers. The alignment markers described by *Van De Vanter* are used to align text on different lines. See Figures 7A, 7B and 7C. However, the alignment markers described by *Van De Vanter* are distinguishable from the insertion point recited by Claim 4. An insertion point indicates “the point at which elements may be added to an electronic document” (Application, page 1, second paragraph), whereas an alignment mark forces a horizontal alignment between associated lines of text (Column 37, lines 50-61).

The Examiner rejected Claims 13 and 14 by essentially repeating the arguments made in rejecting Claim 4. The remarks made above in support of Claim 4 are equally applicable to distinguish Claims 13 and 14 from the cited references.

The Examiner rejected Claim 15 by essentially repeating the arguments made in rejecting Claims 1, 10 and 4. The remarks made above in support of Claims 1, 10 and 4 are equally applicable to distinguish Claim 15 from the cited references.

Claim 5

The Examiner admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe adding and deleting formatting properties from the electronic document. However, the Examiner alleged that *Fukunaga* describes changing format properties. Although *Fukunaga* describes that different lines of a sentence can have different formatting, *Fukunaga* does not describe that formatting properties are added and deleted from the electronic document to place an insertion point in the electronic document, as recited by Claim 5. Table 2 provides examples of the type of formatting properties that can be added and deleted from the document. See Application, pages 19-28. For example, if Rule 5 is used, then an EOP (end of paragraph mark) is inserted in the previous line style and the line is left aligned.

Claim 6

The Examiner rejected Claim 6 by citing Column 4, lines 25-33 and column 21, lines 65-67 of *Van De Vanter*. The cited sections of *Van De Vanter* only contemplate an insertion point within existing text. "The present editor 122 supports three basic text-oriented editing operations. These three basic editing operation are: (1) inserting a non-space character; (2) deleting an editable element and (3) inserting a space." Column 21, lines 59-63. Thus, *Van De Vanter* does not describe determining whether a location of a cursor is positioned over existing text in response to a change in the location of the cursor, as recited by Claim 6.

Claim 12

The Examiner alleged that *Van De Vanter* describes alignment markers placed around tokens for centering lines, and automatic alignment between lines. The alignment markers described by *Van De Vanter* are not associated with a cursor. In contrast, Claim 12 recites that the cursors comprise a left alignment icon, a right alignment icon, a center alignment icon and a text wrap icon.

Dependent Claims

Claims 3-6 and 19-20 and 11-14 depend from independent Claims 1 and 10 respectively. The remarks made above in support of the independent claims are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from the cited references.

Van De Vanter, Fukunaga and Gipson Do Not, Either Singularly or in Combination, Describe, Teach or Suggest the Invention of Claims 7-9 and 16-18

In paragraph 7 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7-9 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Van De Vanter*, in view of *Fukunaga*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,778,402 to *Gipson* ("*Gipson*").

Claim 7

The Examiner admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe matching context information with a trigger and selecting a corresponding rule with formatting steps. However, the Examiner alleged that *Gipson* describes that rules are associated with and used to trigger evaluation routines for autocorrection. The cited section of *Gipson* describes a table that can be used to index a rule base. However, the cited section of *Gipson* does not describe that the selection of a rule is based upon collected context information or that the selected rule affects the presentation of the cursor, as required by Claim 7.

There is no motivation to combine *Van De Vanter*, *Fukunaga* and *Gipson* in the manner suggested by the Examiner. The Office Action does not include a citation that describes how the program editor described by *Van De Vanter* or the format display described by *Fukunaga* can work with the rule base described by *Gipson*. Nor does the Office Action include a citation that describes that the methods described by *Van De Vanter* or *Fukunaga* would benefit from the rule base described by *Gipson*. Moreover, even if the references are combined, the combination does not describe determining whether the cursor is positioned over existing text, such as an existing line, existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces.

Claims 8-9 and 16

The Examiner admitted that *Van De Vanter* does not describe associating a rule with formatting steps. However, the Examiner alleged that *Gipson* describes that rules are used to trigger evaluation routines for autocorrection and that autocorrection performs a sequence of steps resulting in replacement of text. Claims 8 and 9 recites that a rules is associated with a sequence of formatting steps. The formatting steps recited by Claims 8 and 9 differ from the autocorrection steps described by *Gipson* because the autocorrection steps replace text, whereas the formatting steps perform formatting. Formatting does not replace text.

The Examiner rejected Claim 16 by essentially repeating the arguments made in rejecting Claim 8. The remarks made above in support of Claim 8 are equally applicable to distinguish Claim 16 from the cited references. Moreover, the cited sections of *Gipson* do not describe applying formatting properties to adjust the location of the insertion point, as recited by Claim 16.

Claims 17 and 18

The Examiner alleged that *Van De Vanter* describes selecting a rule subsequent to user input after requesting an update from a structural analyzer. The cited sections of *Van De*

Vanter describe rules that are applied to separators and token properties. Neither of the cited sections of *Van De Vanter* describe a rule having associated formatting properties, as recited by Claims 17 and 18.

Dependent Claims

Claims 7-9 and 16-18 depend from independent Claims 1 and 15 respectively. The remarks made above in support of the independent claims are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from the cited references.

Claim 21

The foregoing amendment adds new Claim 21. New Claim 21 is patentable for the same reasons given above in support of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references do not describe, teach or suggest that a cursor can be positioned in a location that is not located within an existing line of text.

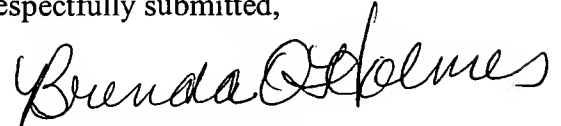
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are based only the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2000. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be

resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call Brenda O. Holmes at (404) 685-6799.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda O. Holmes".

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Version of the Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made

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Full
E1

1. (Amended) For an electronic system for creating and editing an electronic document, a method for placing an insertion point in the electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether a location of a cursor in the electronic document is positioned over existing text, wherein the existing text includes existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces;

(b) collecting context information regarding the location of the cursor in the electronic document by:

if the location of the cursor is positioned over existing text, then collecting context information associated with the existing text;

otherwise, collecting context information associated with existing text that is proximate to the location of the cursor;

(c) selecting one of a plurality of rules based on the collected context information;

(d) in response to selecting the rule, changing a presentation of the cursor to indicate an anticipated location of the insertion point and the type of formatting that will be applied to text and objects located in close proximity to the cursor location;

(e) determining whether an indication has been received to place the insertion point in the electronic document; and

(f) if so, then performing formatting to place the insertion point in the electronic document.

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10. (Amended) For an electronic system for creating and editing an electronic document, a method for displaying a cursor, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether a location of a cursor in the electronic document is positioned over existing text, wherein the existing text includes existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces;

(b) collecting context information regarding a location of the cursor by:

if the location of the cursor is positioned over existing text, then collecting context information associated with the existing text;

otherwise, collecting context information associated with existing text that is proximate to the location of the cursor;

C2 (c) applying the collected context information to a database of a plurality of rules to determine whether the collected context information coincides with one of the plurality of rules;

(d) if so, then determining one of a plurality of cursors associated with the coinciding rule; and

(e) displaying the associated cursor.

15. (Amended) For an electronic system for creating and editing an electronic file, a method for adjusting the location of an insertion point in an electronic file to match the location of a cursor, the method comprising the steps of:

C3 (a) determining whether a location of a cursor in the electronic file is positioned over existing text, wherein the existing text includes existing paragraph marks, existing characters or existing spaces;

81 (b) collecting context information regarding a location of a cursor in the electronic file by:

if the location of the cursor is positioned over existing text, then collecting context information associated with the existing text;

otherwise, collecting context information associated with existing text that is proximate to the location of the cursor;

(c) applying the collected context information to a database of a plurality of rules to determine whether the collected context information coincides with one of the plurality of rules;

(d) if so, then adjusting the location of the insertion point based upon the coinciding rule;

(e) determining whether the location of the insertion point matches the location of the cursor; and

(f) if not, then repeating steps (a)-(e).

C4 21. (New) For an electronic system for creating and editing an electronic document, a method for placing an insertion point in the electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether a location of a cursor in the electronic document is positioned over an existing line;

(b) collecting context information regarding the location of the cursor in the electronic document by;

if the location of the cursor is positioned over the existing line,
then collecting context information associated with the existing line;

otherwise, collecting context information associated with an
existing line that is proximate to the location of the cursor;

(c) selecting one of a plurality of rules based on the collected context
information;

(d) in response to selecting the rule, changing a presentation of the cursor to
indicate an anticipated location of the insertion point and the type of formatting that will be
applied to text and objects located in close proximity to the cursor location;

(e) determining whether an indication has been received to place the insertion
point in the electronic document; and

(f) if so, then performing formatting to place the insertion point in the
electronic document.